

Acknowledgements

Funding for this project materialized in 2004, largely due to the efforts of David Louter, Stephanie Toothman, and Gretchen Luxenberg, historians who work for the National Park Service in Seattle. One of the reasons that funding came about when it did was the fact that most of the source material had been gathered already in order to support a future administrative history of Oregon Caves National Monument. I began assembling material for the administrative history in 1997, something I mostly accomplished as part of intermittent travel to the monument from my duty station at Crater Lake National Park. My supervisors at Crater Lake (Kent Taylor and Marsha McCabe) have supported short-term assistance to Oregon Caves as part of my duties as historian for both parks over the past eighteen years, yet this and other writing projects are of sufficient duration to require financial assistance through the Pacific West Region. One of the efficiencies gained by doing a historic resource study this way is that the source material assembled can serve two documents instead of one. It can also virtually eliminate the overhead associated with a contract.

Another advantage of employing me rather than another historian (either through a term appointment with the NPS or a contract) for the study is that I wanted to produce work that could

also be used as the basis for a future publication marking the monument's centennial in 2009. The following chapters are thus an experiment in developing a broader context and more thematic approach than some other studies of this type, and will hopefully reflect some depth in an association with Oregon Caves that goes back to 1977. At that time manager Harry Christianson offered me a job for the summer as a cave guide with two years of college under my belt. I did the standard tour known then as the "spiel" until my great aunt heard that I worked at the monument. She recalled renting horses near what is now Grayback Campground and riding with a friend of hers to the caves in 1917 for a tour led by Forest Service guide Dick Rowley. Her recollection of the trip taken at a time before any roads reached the monument fired my imagination so that I attempted, however crudely, to interpret past interactions between people and the Oregon Caves. It struck Ann Cordero, a NPS seasonal ranger who provided oversight of the concession-run tour, as rather odd but she let me proceed and even provided a copy of Elijah Davidson's article about his discovery of the cave as reference.

Within little more than a year after being hired as a historian by the NPS, I returned to Oregon Caves in 1989 to start my first big project there. I documented three structures as part of a team who produced a package of measured drawings and other documentation for the Historic American Buildings Survey. Drawing from that experience on my next undertaking, I wrote a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places so that the Oregon Caves Historic District could be listed in 1992. In the lull between projects that followed, I found the archivists stationed at branches of the National Archives branches in Seattle and at San Bruno, California, to be very helpful in assisting me with locating reports and other documents pertaining to Crater Lake and Oregon Caves. During this period archaeologist Janet Joyer at the Siskiyou National Forest loaned a large album of photographs that I copied for the NPS museum collection at the monument. Some of them appear in this study, as do those I borrowed from Chas Davis when he managed the Oregon Caves Chateau. Davis later worked for the NPS, and at one point pursued the story of how an invention that made use of stereoscopic reels with photographs originated at the monument and then alerted me to the importance of View Master. Head guides Jay Swofford and Tom Siewert made some initial contacts with former concession

employees who loaned photographs for copying or provided information about operations at the monument, especially those during the decades of the 1930s and 40s.

Other people have also helped my work on this study, albeit indirectly, by periodically sending me material relating to Oregon Caves. Foremost among them are Bill Alley, former archivist and historian at the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Larry McLane, past president of the Josephine County Historical Society, and Florenz "Bud" Breitmeyer, whose knowledge of concession operations during the 1930s and 40s is unsurpassed. Other contributors include Roger J. Contor, Doug Deur, Tom DuRant, William R. Halliday, Carol Harbison-Samuelson, Steve Knutson, Francis G. Lange, David Louter, Martha Murphy, Pat Solomon, and Jerry Williams. NPS employees at Oregon Caves have helped me by providing housing and in numerous other ways, not least by their enthusiasm and patience. In the latter regard, I would like to especially thank Superintendent Craig Ackerman, Chief of Resource Management John Roth, Chief of Interpretation Roger Brandt, and Curator Mary Benterou for their support on this and other endeavors. Ackerman, Roth, and Gretchen Luxenberg read the draft manuscript and made suggestions for improving it. John Roth deserves special thanks for contributing an essay which follows the bibliography, as do Elizabeth Hale for copy editing and Mary Williams Hyde for layout.